

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mitsuhiko Kurano

Examiner: Daniel L. Robinson

Serial Number: 10/597,953

Art Unit: 3742

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FOR: DIRECT HEATING TUBE AND METHOD OF HEATING FLUID USING THE SAME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97**

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of this application or before the mailing of an Office Action on the merits, whichever event occurs last, and therefore is considered timely under 37 CFR §1.97(b).

According to the terms of 37 CFR §1.97(g), this Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25. This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR 1.56(c).

A list of six (6) references, including one (1) U.S. Patent, four (4) foreign patent document, and one (1) non-patent literature document cited by the applicant is enclosed on the PTO/SB/08A form, which is attached and made a part thereof. U.S. Patent Cite No. 1 is the US equivalent of DE4201944, which is cited in the listed European Search Report. All citations were cited in the European Search Report for EP 04 71 0997, a corresponding application of this United States patent application.

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement, and is inclusive of the best information known to the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

HAHN LOESER & PARKS, LLP

Date: January 19, 2012

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